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By James Dotson
North American Mission Board

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — It was nearly 2 a.m., and Dennis Higley — a sixth-generation Mormon — was approaching a realization that would shatter the illusions of a lifetime.

His wife, Rauni, had said she could no longer be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) because of contradictions and other problems she had discovered in church teachings.

Dennis consented to purchase all the relevant books on the church doctrine and history, sit down with his wife, and look up in full context each of the problematic teachings.

Finally, Dennis stood up, slammed all of the books shut, and said, "That's enough."

"That night is when the bubble of Mormonism I had been living in burst. That night was the beginning to my in-depth studies of Mormon

history and doctrine — the issues I was never told about by my church," he said.

That pivotal moment came in 1982. Since then, despite devastating persecution that cost them their businesses after they left the church, the Higleys have been used of God to help lead hundreds of Mormons to faith in the Jesus Christ of the Bible.

The Higleys are Mission Service Corps volunteers with the North American Mission Board relating to its interfaith witness evangelism team.

Under the auspices of H.I.S. (He Is Savior) Ministries in suburban Salt Lake City, they are sharing Christ with those

SWAYED BY THE EVIDENCE — Dennis and Rauni Higley left the Mormon Church in 1983 after an extensive study of the history and theology revealed contradictions and other problems they could not reconcile. They are now sharing the Christ of historic biblical Christianity with those caught in the maze of Mormonism, and helping fellow Christians do likewise. (BP photo by James Dotson)

caught in the maze of Mormonism, and helping fellow Christians do likewise.

Rauni Higley was converted to Mormonism in her native Finland in 1963. A nominal Lutheran, she was impressed by the friendliness and warmth she felt from the Mormon missionaries and church members.

"I was totally illiterate as far as the Bible is concerned, not really understanding who God is and who Jesus is, so it was very easy for Mormons to convince me that what they were bringing to me was biblical," she said.

She approached her new faith with an

enthusiasm not unnoticed by LDS leaders in Finland. In less than a year she was asked to serve an 18-month "mission" in full-time service to the LDS church. It was during this time that she met Dennis, an Idaho native who was also serving a mission in Finland.

After her mission, Rauni moved to Salt Lake City, where she began working as a translator for the LDS church, a position she held more than 14 years.

Dennis returned from his mission in Finland, and the two eventually were married in the Salt Lake City LDS temple.

In 1982, she finally told Dennis she could no longer be a part of the church.

They eventually joined First Baptist Church of Vernal, Utah.

Because of their dramatic story, the Higleys started being asked to speak to Christian groups, and they also adapted a course on Mormonism they originally taught at the Vernal church into a weekend seminar.

The original letter that they wrote to their LDS friends and relatives grew into a pamphlet directed toward Mormons that has also been made available on an Internet site. (www.exmormon.org/whylft50.htm)

Concerning their own journey, Dennis said Christians often have sympathized about the tremendous price they have paid for their faith.

Dennis would much rather they join in a celebration.

"I say we may have paid a price in the eyes of the world, but we got the prize through Jesus Christ."

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Baptist Bookstores/ Lifeway Christian Stores Best Sellers

Hardback

1. The Weigh Down Diet, Gwen Shamblin (Doubleday)
2. Things Pondered, Beth Moore (B&H)
3. Cross, Max Lucado (Multnomah)
4. Experiencing God Day By Day, Henry Blackaby (B&H)
5. Purpose Driven Church, Rick Warren (Zondervan)
6. Complete Book of Baby & Child Care, Dobson (Focus on the Family)
7. Great House of God, Max Lucado (Word)
8. Final Dawn Over Jerusalem, John Hagee (Thomas Nelson)
9. What's So Amazing About Grace, Philip Yancy (Zondervan)
10. Esther, Charles Swindoll (Nelson/Word)

Looking back

10 years ago

"I'm glad you are celebrating tonight. A church or association that does not appreciate its past has no future," Southern Baptist leader and retired Oklahoma pastor Herchel Hobbs tells Winston County Baptists gathered at First Church, Lousiville, to celebrate the association's 150th anniversary.

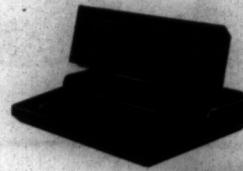
25 years ago

Two gleaming white buildings rise from the sands of the Bay St. Louis beach into the modern, new facilities of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian. The first regularly scheduled conference begins May 22. The new facility can accommodate over 300 people.

50 years ago

Sturgis Church, Oktibbeha Association, experiences a revival with Percy Ray of the Home Mission Board conducting services. During the week-long revival, there are 65 conversions, about half of whom were previously members of other churches.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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A turning point for Mississippi Baptists

All history is filled with turning points, when a people group made the monumental decisions that either propelled them into the future or condemned them to the ash heap of the past.

Some of those groups made their turning-point decisions in concert with God, and some didn't. History reflects that the people who looked to God for answers more often than not came through their turning points propelled into the future, while those who didn't look to God more often than not wound up on the ash heap.

American philosopher and essayist George Santayana (1863-1952) is credited with the famous maxim, "Who forgets history is doomed to repeat it." That lesson has proven a bitter pill for the many larger-than-life figures through the years of recorded history who have chosen to ignore it, for whatever reason.

Mississippi Baptists find themselves at a turning point in their own history, with Bill Causey's April 20 announcement that he plans to retire at the end of September after nine years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Which way will we go?

From the days of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention in 1824 through the Convention of the Baptist Denomination of the State of Mississippi in 1836 to the beginning of the modern-day Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1937, this state's Baptists have been blessed by strong leadership raised by God and placed when and where it was needed.

Leadership is certainly one of the elements that has brought the Mississippi Baptist Convention into its present condition as one of the leading states (if not the leading state) in the whole of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For your thoughts are not my thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

What a simple Scripture, yet one filled with great truth. Likewise, the book of Ezekiel is a perfect example of the "world's" way versus God's way.

Take a few minutes to reread the first few chapters again. The world would look at what God instructed Ezekiel to do and say, "Man, you must be nuts — I certainly wouldn't do something like that even if the Scripture says this is what I should do. After all I have my rights."

"I must get on with my life and my plans and being a fanatic doesn't figure into my lifestyle."

God's Word in Jeremiah 29:11-14 declares that God has a plan for our lives and that plan gives us hope and a future.

How do we experience that plan? We do so by following the "P" examples.

Purge

We must ask God to purge us daily of anything that separates us from his plan.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." (Psalm 139:23-24)

Mississippi Baptists are perennial champions in the campaign to bring the world to Jesus, topping the Southern Baptist Convention in nearly every category of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Mississippi Baptist churches also comprise seven percent of the top 100 Cooperative Program churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, including the number three, number six, and number 28 churches of 20,000 or so churches in the SBC.

Mississippi Baptists also support their local church ministries and state convention programs on levels that are unmatched in any other state.

Mississippi Baptists annually set state Cooperative Program records, even giving millions of dollars over goal that goes directly to Christian higher education and missions.

When the call was made to minister to starving North Koreans, Mississippi Baptists donated 52 tons of food in October 1996 and 32 tons of food in April 1998 — plus more than enough money to ship the food to the other side of the world. The list could go on and on.

Now is the time for each of us to begin praying that God will once again raise the leader Mississippi Baptists will need to maintain the unprecedented momentum we are now enjoying.

The executive committee of the

"HAROLD'S BEEN GOING OVER MY HEAD!"



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, charged with finding that new leader, will begin their work in earnest in the coming weeks. Pray for this choice group of dedicated Mississippi Baptists.

Pray that the new leader, already prepared by the Father and known to him, will be open and submissive to the will of God.

Then, let it be said that Mississippi Baptists live by a new maxim: "Who remembers history is blessed to repeat it."

being pulled by a team of horses crossing the river.

Sometimes we get so caught up in playing it safe doing things as the world thinks is right, we forget God's ways are not our ways. He will not lead you where he can't keep you.

Produce

Ezekiel concludes with a picture of a river flowing from the temple of God.

Ezekiel is shown the river at different depths. It ranged from ankle deep to swimming deep.

At the swimming depth there is life and fruit.

Are we still wading in the kiddie pool when God's plan calls for scuba gear and fruit-producing lives?

Proclaim

Just know that if God has called you he will provide whatever is needed for you to stand.

Knowing and following God's plan for our lives takes total commitment and faith in the "Planner."

I'm reminded of a devotion that I read once where a man came to a frozen river but was not sure how thick the ice was, so he crawled inch by inch across the river testing the thickness as he went.

Almost to the shore, he heard a commotion behind him and looked to see a wagon

Prayer

Finally, there is a daily prayer such as this:

"Oh God, purge us, give us purpose, and provide the means so that we might produce the fruit you desire, so that we may proclaim the name of Jesus as Lord and Savior!"

Smith tapped to lead congregational singing at SBC

SALT LAKE CITY (BP and local reports) — L. Graham Smith, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Church Music Department, has been selected to lead congregational singing during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 9-11 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Smith's slot on the SBC program is listed as 10:35 a.m. on Thursday, June 11.

"Exalting the Unchanging Christ" will be the theme of the SBC trek to Salt Lake City — the largest-ever gathering of evangelicals in the Utah capital and headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The meeting will be preceded by a Crossover Salt Lake City evangelistic thrust, with most events slated June 6, to share the gospel with the region's 1.6 million Mormons and non-Mormons.

A number of Mississippians are planning to participate in Crossover Salt Lake City, under the leadership of the MBCB Evangelism Department.

Longtime Utah religious observers say it will be the first time a large door-to-door witnessing campaign by a group the size of the SBC will be held in Salt Lake City, noting the door-to-door witnessing is a strategy often used by Mormons in other cities.

For more information on

Crossover Salt Lake City, contact MBCB Evangelism Director Sonny Adkins at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

A video and book, "The Mormon Puzzle," have been prepared by the SBC North



Smith

American Mission Board's interfaith witness evangelism team to assist Baptists in their witness.

A milestone will be reached sometime during the Salt Lake City meeting — the 141st session in the convention's 153-year history — when the 1 millionth messenger will register.

Fewer than 2,000 messengers are needed to register to total

the million mark in attendance since the beginning of the SBC in 1845. The meeting will be held in the downtown Salt Palace Convention Center, across the street from the Mormon Temple.

The theme of the SBC meeting is drawn from Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever."

Mormons believe Jesus was the first-born spirit child of heavenly parents and was procreated physically when God cohabited with Mary, one of numerous Mormon differences with historic Christianity.

Among the featured speakers at this year's SBC meeting will be James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The noted author and religious broadcaster will bring the concluding message Thursday morning, June 11.

Also on the agenda is the election of an SBC president to succeed Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., who has served two one-year terms.

The only announced candidate for the post is Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Among matters to be presented for consideration to messengers is a proposal that the Sunday School Board of the

SBC be renamed LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, an SBC bylaw change requiring a vote in two consecutive years.

Also expected is a report from a seven-member committee studying a possible article on the family to be added to the Baptist Faith and Message document.

The committee was named by SBC President Elliff in response to action by the SBC annual meeting in Dallas last year.

As the SBC annual meeting is held, a number of satellite events are scheduled in Salt Lake City,

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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IMB missionary murdered in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP) — Charles W. Hood Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary to Colombia, was shot and killed April 21 in front of his home in Bogota.

Hood, 44, left the house about 3 p.m., apparently to go to the bank.

His wife, Becky, said she heard a shout and a gunshot. When she ran from the house, she saw her husband on the ground and two men speeding away on a motorcycle.

Neighbors immediately took the unconscious missionary to a nearby clinic.

Workers there sent him to a hospital because his wounds were too severe for them to handle at the clinic.

Hood died on the way to the hospital.

The motive for the murder was unclear, said Dickie Nelson, associate director for Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) work in Colombia.

The country has the highest murder rate in the world, with 81 deaths per 100,000 people — nine times the United States murder rate, according to statistics.

"We were grieved and saddened at the news of Charley's death but we are deeply grateful for his life and ministry in Colombia," IMB President Jerry Rankin said after Hood's death was reported.

"Charley, however, did not die when he was gunned down in Bogota, Colombia, but years ago when he died to self and committed his life to follow Christ," Rankin added.

While missionaries and the board take seriously the dangers of serving overseas, obedience to the call of God compels them to take risks in places where there is danger, he said.



C. Hood



B. Hood

involved in Theological Education by Extension training.

Prior to missionary service, he served as minister of education and youth at Spring Valley Church, Raytown, Mo., and minister of education and evangelism at First Church, Lee's Summit, Mo.

The Hoods have two children: Rebecca Dawn, an 11th-grader living at home; and Aaron Charles, a student at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Charley Hood's parents, Charles Sr. and Ruth Hood, live in Ash Grove, Mo.

Memorial services in Bogota will be scheduled as soon as officials perform the required autopsy and release the body to the family, Nelson said.

In addition, the family plans to schedule a funeral in Missouri, he added.

"We don't know the motive for the killing. I don't know whether an investigation will ever be able to clarify what the motive was, but we want to encourage Southern Baptists to pray for Becky and the children."

"We'd also ask them to pray for the 42 other Southern Baptist missionaries in Colombia as they deal with the loss of a colleague and a good friend," Nelson said.

Hood was the 14th member of a Southern Baptist missionary family to die as a victim of murder or other hostile action since the Foreign Mission Board, now called the International Mission Board, was founded in 1845.

Layman wins Okla. City mayoral race

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — Southern Baptist layman Kirk Humphreys was elected mayor of Oklahoma City April 7 by a two-thirds margin.

Humphreys, a member of the Northwest Fellowship of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, received 28,800 votes or 67.6% of votes cast in a race with Guy Liebmann, a city councilman.

Humphreys is a former trustee chairman of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and has held numerous leadership roles throughout the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He also served eight years on the Putnam City School Board.

Humphreys has visited Mississippi in recent months as chairman of the campaign for upgrading Glorieta and Ridgecrest Assemblies, the Southern Baptist campgrounds.

Youth group offers prayers for SBC meet

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah (BP) — They're just six in number. Yet, in the heart of Mormon country, these seventh- and eighth-graders and their bivocational youth director are laying a prayer foundation for the churches of Utah and Idaho for this June's Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting and Crossover evangelistic thrust in Salt Lake City.

"People need prayer," said Bethany Edwards, a seventh-grade youth group member at First Church, Brigham City, Utah. By helping others in prayer, "then they help you, they pray for you, too," she said.

That lesson comes from a 25-week project launched by the youth group to stimulate prayer for each of the churches and missions and their communities in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention as well as the convention's leaders and other spiritual concerns signaled to the youths' attention in preparation for the SBC.

Each week, the group mails out more than 600 postcards with seven days of focused prayer concerns.

The mailing list continues to grow in number and national scope as word spreads, up from an initial mailing of 300 when the project began the first week of January, primarily to the 80 members of First Church, Brigham City, and to the churches, missions, and other contacts in Utah and Idaho.

Bethany Edwards, acknowledging the rigors of life as a Baptist in Utah, said, "Almost all my friends are Mormon, and they'll be talking about baptizing for the dead, but I don't let it bother me."

The youth group has received numerous notes of appreciation from people on the weekly prayer calendar, she said, "and it makes me feel good."

Although the youth group had taken part in such missions activities as the SBC's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, "they felt they were too young and too far away to have a direct impact in Salt Lake," said Mac Edwards, Bethany's uncle and director of youth and music at First Church.

"That's when the Lord led us to pray for the churches in our two-state convention."

Now, he said, "They're finding that the prayer project is actually more rewarding than waiting until the convention. It's proved that they can do something and it can make a difference."

And they're enthusiastic about venturing into other initiatives, such as a teen-oriented "Frontliners" witnessing thrust in Salt Lake City in early June led by evangelist Kelly Green in cooperation with the North American Mission Board.

The youth also remain enthusiastic for the SBC annual meeting, Edwards said, "for the simple reason that for once in their lives there will be a whole lot of Baptists around."

Information about the prayer project, called "Lift Up Utah!" and "Interceding for Idaho!" may be requested by writing to the Youth Ministry, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 265, Brigham City, UT 84302-0265.

Mac Edwards is the son of Frank and Roberta Edwards, former SBC missionaries to Nigeria who later served many years in pastoring Utah churches. His mother, who first went to Nigeria as a single medical

missionary, was known as Bobbie Jo Cox.

The youth group began its prayer project by mailing a survey to the churches and missions in the Utah-Idaho convention seeking five key prayer needs for their congregation and five for their community.

The daily prayer requests were then fashioned from the surveys that were returned and from information provided by leaders of the convention, directors of the various Baptist associations and others.

Each week, the youth group attaches mailing labels to the postcards, with a different member saying a brief prayer over the stack each week.

An example of the daily prayer request is April 2's, focusing on Calvary Church, Ogden, Utah.

"Bro. Willie Martin is a self-taught bivocational minister who is leading his congregation to reach local urban neighborhoods. This church is a blending of two ethnic churches that were struggling to meet the needs of people in their area. God has continued to bless them by removing racial barriers and bringing new people into the small congregation."

For March 31, focusing on First Church, Tooele, Utah: "Until recently, the major industry in Tooele (pronounced 'too-wil-la') was the government's ammunitions and weapons storage facility. With federal cutbacks, FBC and the town could have dried up and been history, but in the past few months, new engineering, tooling and manufacturing companies have moved into the abandoned buildings. FBC has great potential for growth again!"

Did Disney head compare Southern Baptists to Nazis?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The head of The Disney Company tossed more barbs at Southern Baptists supporting the boycott of the entertain-

ment giant during a news program April 21.

In an interview with the co-host of NBC's morning program "The Today Show,"

Michael Eisner said it was a "splinter group" of Southern Baptists who were withholding their financial support of Disney.

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission called Eisner's comments "both reprehensible and contemptible."

"Those most concerned with the shift within The Disney Company are not some fringe splinter group, but are those who were traditionally Disney's best customers — families with children who desire family friendly entertainment," Land countered.

Eisner also said Southern Baptists meeting last year took aim at Jews, telling Katie Couric in error that the denomination's 1997 convention also "recommended that they convert the Jews." Eisner continued, saying, "That was something that hasn't been recommended since the '40s in Europe."

Land said Eisner's "thinly veiled" comparison of the SBC's action in 1996 to reaffirm the need for evangelism to all people, including those of the Jewish faith, to "Nazi Germany's horrific persecution of Jews" from 1933 to the late 1940s was "outrageous" and "offensive."

"Evangelism is not extermination," Land said. "In calling for Christians to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Southern Baptists are

standing squarely in the middle of apostolic faith passed down through the ages."

The resolution on Jewish evangelism was "not a new commandment," Land said, explaining it was a challenge from the Apostle Paul himself recorded in the first chapter of the New Testament Book of Romans.

Attempts by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission to answer Eisner's charges were declined by "The Today Show."

Land expressed hope Eisner would step back "from such contemptuous comments" aimed at those who question his leadership of the world's second-largest entertainment conglomerate and agree "to engage in constructive and reasoned dialogue with those who have grave concerns about the message his company is sending to children."

Answering Couric's question on the financial impact of the boycott, Eisner said Disney's earnings "have been going up substantially."

Meanwhile, news reports said Disney's ABC Network was canceling plans to bring Ellen back from hiatus for a three-week run presumed to be show's wrap-up.

The show has been plagued by declining ratings since the program's main character, Ellen DeGeneres, announced her homosexuality last spring.

MBIB awards spotlight quality



Winners at the 12th Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) Workshop held April 11 at Calvary Church, Jackson, are (from the left): Ian Richardson, First Church, Cleveland, Best TV Spot, "Morning Worship Service Opening;" W. C. Taylor, Hardy Church, Grenada, Best Radio Program in Missions and Evangelism, "Circuit Rider;" Ben Kelly and Stacy Brown, WHIT, Clinton (Mississippi College), Best Radio Spot, "Garden's Edge;" Jim Bass, Highland Church, Corinth, Best First Time Entry, "Living Christmas Tree 1997;" Gene Everett, Colonial Heights Church, Brandon, Best TV Church Musicals, "Wise Men Still Seek Him;" Lawrence Moore, First Church, Brandon, Best TV Program in Missions and Evangelism, "Today and Tomorrow;" John Palmer, First Church, Hattiesburg, Best TV Community Service Spot, "Living;" Merle Guyton, Global Outreach, Tupelo, Most Creative Use of TV, "Harvest."

'Purposeful Interims' pilot coming to Miss.

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) Institute for Church Health has completed its first Purposeful Interims pilot program, awarding certificates to 16 men trained to help churches "approach interim periods with purpose rather than tying a knot and holding on," said director Randy Millwood.

Jackson has been selected as a site for the multi-phase training seminar entitled, "Purposeful Interims."

The program equips qualified candidates to be interim leaders and consultants "for churches that have had forced terminations of the minister or other serious problems," said Millwood, assistant professor

of Christian education at New Orleans Seminary.

During the seminary's March trustee meeting, Millwood was named to the seminary's new Thomas Gurney Chair of Church Health.

The Institute for Church Health was established by seminary President Chuck Kelley in March 1997 to help "grow healthy churches," a focal point of the seminary's mission.

After a pastor has left a church, for whatever reason, "a church that has been healthy can continue to be healthy, and a church that has had health problems can become healthy even during an interim," Millwood said.

"With approximately 70 per-

cent of Southern Baptist churches plateaued or declining and a comparatively small number of long-tenured pastors, the number of churches in interim periods at any one time is substantial.

"By viewing an interim with a sense of purpose, we may take great steps forward in reversing all of these statistics," he said.

If a church takes its time after a pastor leaves, Millwood said, "evaluating its strengths and weaknesses, its community, its leadership needs, its stewardship status, and mission," it is more likely to "call the right pastor and be geared up to make an impact in the community when he comes."

A purposeful interim generally will last four to 12 months, Millwood said, and an interim specialist will begin the interim "like a doctor with a checklist," studying demographics, "snapshots" of the community and congregation and spiritual gifts as examples of tools which may be used for assessing the health of a church.

An interim specialist also will lead a church to develop and implement an outreach strategy during the interim time, a unique aspect of the purposeful interim, Millwood said.

"Interim leaders will stress God's kingdom view of outreach as a church prepares and plans for future ministry," he said.

Conflict management and resolution, analysis of current trends and celebrating a church's past also are components of a purposeful interim.

Having completed its first year, the Institute for Church Health has established a new Internet site (churchhealth.com) designed to keep a pulse on the current needs, concerns and status of Southern Baptist churches, Millwood said.

The Institute for Church Health soon will offer the Purposeful Interim equipping program in sites other than the New Orleans Seminary campus, including Alexandria, La.; Jackson, Miss.; and Atlanta.

Anyone who feels called to assist churches through an interim period may participate in the equipping process. There are no academic prerequisites.

Participants in the complete training cycle (a three-day workshop, two months of field work, and a second two-day workshop) receive a certificate and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from the NOBTS continuing education department.

A general workshop (nine hours) may be taken initially for those who wish to preview the program before enrolling.

Churches seeking the help of an interim specialist may contact the church-minister relations offices of state conventions or their associational DOMs.

For more information or to be placed on the mailing list, call (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3320; or contact Millwood's office at (504) 282-4455, ext. 8420; by e-mail at rmillwood@nobts.edu.

Miss. Baptist softball tournaments set

The 1998 Mississippi State Softball Tournament takes place in July and August with three separate divisions based on Sunday School enrollment, according to Tom Prather, tournament director.

Class A is for Sunday School enrollment up to 300 persons. That tourney is July 17-18.

Class AA is for 301 to 700 in enrollment. That tourney is July 24-25.

Class AAA, for Sunday Schools with enrollments of 701 and above, has its tourney on Aug. 7-8.

Prather said this alignment should allow three tournaments of approximately equal size. He noted that all players must be a member of the church, not just a Sunday School member.

Entry forms will be mailed to churches in the middle of May. For more information, contact Prather at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

ON mission'98

This three-day missions conference, August 2-5, 1998, at Ridgecrest Conference Center, will help churches reach their communities and North America for Christ.

ON Mission '98 will feature dozens of small group conferences led by missionaries and national missions leaders; dynamic praise and worship services; and inspiring mission messages by John MacArthur, Alvin James Morris, Jack Graham, and Bob Beeson.

(770) 410-6481

Call today for more information about the ON Mission '98 schedule of speakers and conferences.

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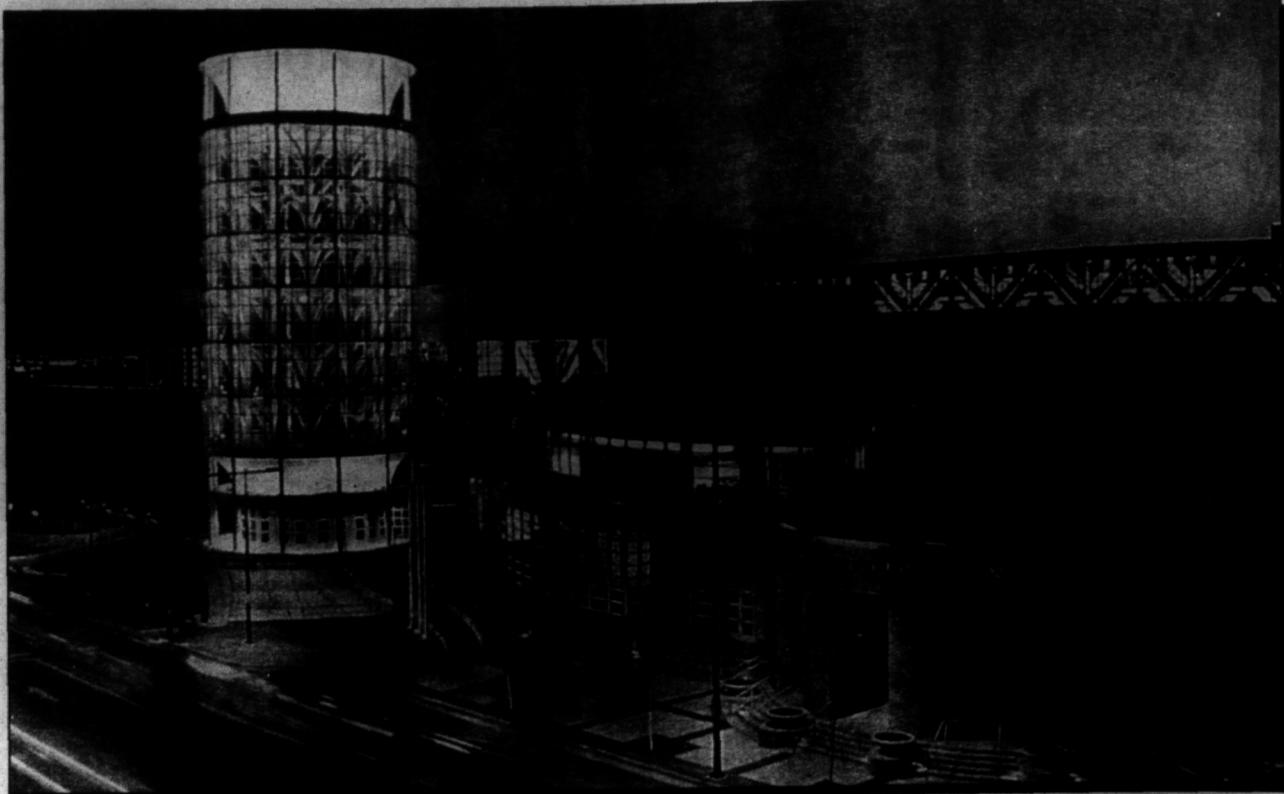
First Baptist Church, PO Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 949-1906

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 7-11, 1998

Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

Theme: Exalting the Unchanging Christ
Scripture: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8



TUESDAY MORNING JUNE 9
8:00 — Inspirational Music
8:20 — Congregational Praise and Worship
8:25 — Prayer
8:30 — Call To Order, Registration Report, Constitution of Convention
8:35 — Committee on Order of Business (First Report)
8:40 — Welcome/Response
8:50 — Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
8:55 — Theme Interpretation: *Jesus Christ, the same yesterday*
9:15 — Recalling Our Heritage Recognition of Former SBC Presidents
9:20 — Crossover Salt Lake City Report
9:25 — Denominational Press Report
9:35 — Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
10:00 — Executive Committee Report (Part 1)
10:50 — Congregational Praise and Worship
10:55 — Worship in Music

11:00 — President's Address
11:40 — Benediction

TUESDAY AFTERNOON JUNE 9
1:00 — Concert of Praise
1:20 — Congregational Praise and Worship
1:25 — Prayer
1:30 — Business: Committee on Order of Business (Second Report)
1:45 — Messenger Information Survey
1:50 — Executive Committee Report (Part 2)
2:30 — Election of Officers (First)
2:45 — Sunday School Board Report
2:55 — Sunday School Board Presentation
3:25 — YouthLink 2000
3:30 — Congregational Praise and Worship
3:35 — Woman's Missionary Union Report
3:45 — Committee on Nominations Report
3:55 — Committee on Committees Report
4:05 — Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee Report
4:15 — Election of Officers (Second)
4:30 — Introduction of Motions; Reporting Proposed Resolutions
5:00 — Benediction

TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 9
6:30 — Music for Inspiration
6:45 — Congregational Praise and Worship
6:50 — Prayer
7:00 — Election of Officers (Third)

7:10 — Theme Interpretation: *Jesus Christ, the same today*
7:30 — Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)
7:40 — Previously Scheduled Business, Introduction of New Motions, Reporting Proposed Resolutions
8:05 — Congregational Praise and Worship
8:10 — North American Mission Board Report
8:20 — North American Mission Board Presentation
9:05 — Benediction

WEDNESDAY MORNING JUNE 10
8:15 — Concert of Praise
8:30 — Congregational Praise and Worship
8:35 — Prayer
8:40 — Business — Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report)
9:00 — Previously Scheduled Business
9:20 — Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
9:50 — Seminary Report
10:05 — Seminary Presentations
10:50 — Election of Officers (Fourth)
11:00 — Concert of Praise
11:10 — Convention Message
11:50 — Benediction

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

WEDNESDAY EVENING JUNE 10
6:00 — Concert of Praise
6:10 — Prayer
6:15 — Business — Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)
6:25 — Theme Interpretation: *Jesus Christ, the same forever*

6:45 — Annuity Board Report
7:00 — Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission Report
7:15 — Election of Officers (Fifth)
7:25 — Congregational Praise and Worship
7:30 — Concert of Praise
7:40 — International Mission Board Report
7:50 — International Mission Board Presentation/Commissioning Service
8:55 — Benediction

THURSDAY MORNING JUNE 11

8:55 — Inspirational Music
9:10 — Congregational Praise and Worship
9:15 — Prayer
9:20 — Previously Scheduled Business
9:35 — Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
10:05 — American Bible Society Report

10:10 — Baptist World Alliance Report
10:20 — Local Arrangements Committee Presentation
10:25 — Presentation of Outgoing Officers
10:30 — Presentation of New Officers
10:35 — Congregational Praise and Worship:
L. Graham Smith, director
Church Music Department,
Miss. Baptist Conv. Board
10:40 — Inspirational Music
10:50 — Keynote Speaker: James C. Dobson, President, Focus on the Family Colorado Springs, Colo.

11:35 — Benediction
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Southern Baptist WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION ANNUAL MTG.
Salt Lake City, Utah
June 7-8, 1998
Schedule to be published next week.



A SPECIAL EDUCATION RETREAT

STARQUEST: A GALACTIC GOOD NEWS ADVENTURE

May 8-9

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

THE RETREAT IS FOR PEOPLE 12 YEARS OF AGE, THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS, AND PASTORS/MINISTERS. REGISTRATION BEGINS 3 P.M. FRI. AND CONCLUDES 1 P.M. SAT.

Cost: \$25 PER PERSON

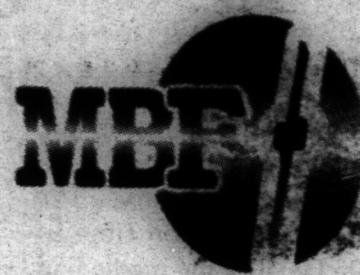
PRE-REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5 IS DUE MAY 4 AT THE BAPTIST BUILDING ALONG WITH A LIST OF PEOPLE ATTENDING. THE BALANCE OF \$20 IS DUE ON FRI., MAY 8.

One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex is required.

For more information, contact:
Larry Salter, MBCB
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
601-968-3800
or toll-free outside Jackson
1-800-748-1651

Marci Campbell
Conference Leader





Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Let Us Introduce You...

**The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serving Christ and
Mississippi Baptists since 1943 by providing many
avenues for Christians to give to the Lord's work in
Mississippi and around the world**

1998 Board of Trustees

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Jerry Thornhill, accountant

...Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all... Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:11-14

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, . . . Proverbs 3:9-10

In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

Proverbs 20:21

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. Matthew 12:36

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.' Matthew 25:23

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as the trust agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, holding a means whereby the Convention may give financial support for missions and other needs of the church. As the trustee, the Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, and is controlled by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Convention. It is a separate entity and is funded by contributions from the Convention, As a legal entity, the Foundation is subject to all state and federal laws regarding non-profit foundations and trust organizations. Please call on us if we can be of any service.

THE HISTORY DAY

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation was founded in 1943. Mississippi Baptists saw ministry opportunities that deserve and need funding. Thus, the work was launched, and the first few years consisted of a volunteer organization with the Board of Trustees donating their time and energies to the work. Needing a man with a unique combination of financial expertise and dedication to missions, Leland Speed was selected to serve as Incorporator/President. As the work grew A. B. Pierce was secured as Director in 1945 and assigned the task of promoting estate stewardship throughout the State. As the work and ministry of the Baptist Foundation increased, J. A. Travis evidenced his service to the Lord with his tireless service to Miss. Baptists from 1946 to 1947. B. C. Land was such a positive influence and an encouragement to the work of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation as he headed the work beginning in 1948.

Harry Lee Spencer served capably as Executive Director from 1950 until 1968. When Spencer retired, Carey Cox assumed the position of Executive Director. He possessed the enthusiasm of those who are busily commissioned to their calling. Rev. Cox retired in 1976. As more and more individuals across the state expressed their Christian stewardship, the work continued to expand. Dr. Harold T. Kitchings, was elected as Executive Director of the Baptist Foundation in 1976 and served until his untimely death April 1987. Dr. Kitchings, an effective promoter of our Christian stewardship responsibility, provided great leadership to the Foundation and further expanded its ministry. Mr. Aubrey Boone, a retired bank president who had served for eighteen years as a MBF Trustee, was asked to assume the role of Executive Director following the death of Dr. Kitchings. Under Boone's leadership the Foundation continued to expand and grow as it served Mississippi Baptists. Following Boone's retirement in 1992, E. Harold Fisher, Jr. was asked to head the staff and serve as Executive Director. Fisher possesses a deep spiritual commitment and a wealth of experience to prepare the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for future growth in its service to our Lord and Mississippi Baptists.

TODAY

The Baptist Foundation continues its ministry today traveling the state promoting estate stewardship in the local Baptist church, receiving gifts to benefit the local church, as well as Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries and managing money for Mississippi Baptist institutions. The Baptist Foundation currently has 904 individual accounts and approximately \$50 million in assets. Each of these 904 accounts represents an individual or a family who wanted to make a difference and have an impact for the cause of Christ even after their death. Each account has a story. We would like to share some of those stories with you to give an example of how the Lord, through the ministry of the Baptist Foundation, has blessed families and provided financial resources to further His cause.

The Lord Makes All Things Possible

by Wm. Howard Cole

November 13, 1944, was a very important day in my life during World War II. Even though I stepped on a "Bouncing Betty" land mine, I only received a back injury. As I was being helped in a doorway to go in and guard some prisoners captured during a battle, the pain left, and I felt my right leg go numb. A sniper from a nearby church steeple had shot a bullet that severed my main artery and main nerve. Our soldiers shot through the ceiling and killed the sniper. Years later when I visited there again as a tourist, I saw those same bullet holes.

The medic packed my wound very tightly with sulfa drugs and bandages which caused the blood to coagulate and seal off the blood flow. Meanwhile, the secondary blood supply had taken over, and I had a pulse in the lower leg. It wasn't until much later that I was told how important the treatment was that the medic performed. It never leaked until I went into surgery. The surgeons said that they would have amputated my leg if it had not been for the tight packing I had in the wound.

Because the nerve had been cut, the spinal block did not work when I did have surgery. The blood had been given time to coagulate because the medic had marked me "non-critical." Sedated to relieve the pain that had set in after the shock of the original injury and after ambulance rides, several days later I was placed in the hospital in Nancy, France. Because of the extent of damage to the artery and nerve, the original plan was to remove the right leg halfway above the knee.

As the surgeon started removing the bandages and cleaning the wound, I uttered a

loud cry to let the surgeon know that all was not well. The spinal had not taken. After much discussion in a very loud voice, another surgeon came over and said in a fatherly manner, "What is wrong here? Young man, you are going to have to hold your voice down. There are three surgical groups here trying to do our best, and you are a very disruptive patient." This surgeon asked them not to begin the operation until he finished his other surgery. The surgeon who operated on me told me that he was from Mississippi, too. They eventually operated successfully after putting me to sleep with sodium pentothal.

Further surgery was required, and I was sent to Salisbury, England, where the doctors specialized in nerve injuries. Again, I was fortunate to have another Mississippi doctor, Charles Neill, chief of neurosurgery. Dr. Neill also performed my follow up surgeries in New York in the summer of 1946 and 1947. While I was in New York my older brother, Wilbur, called me to let me know there was an

(see ALL THINGS, p. 3)



Wm. Howard and Gerry Cole

Dowdle Scholarship Winners

Since the John and Betty Jeane Dowdle Scholarship Trust was established in 1974, approximately 500 scholarships have been awarded to students in our Baptist colleges. Scholarship recipients are determined on the evaluation of student evidence given by the student of a genuine conversion experience, a striving for academic excellence, and a potential for Christian service. Recently, Betty Jeane Dowdle, member of FBC, Columbus, met two of these scholarship recipients.

Mark Sellers, son of Dr. and

Mrs. David Sellers, Tylertown Baptist Church, graduated from Mississippi College in December 1997. Mark was a Dean's List student, with a cumulative 3.94 GPA in a pre-medicine curriculum. He has been on mission trips to Romania, Japan, Houston, Tex., and Boston, Mass. Mark is presently serving as Student Minister Associate, Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon, and Organic Chemistry Laboratory Instructor, Mississippi College.

Joy Merriman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Merriman,

Jackson, is a senior at Mississippi College, majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Journalism. Joy served as a BSU summer missionary in Nevada. She is a Dean's List student and a member of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. Joy was presented with the Journalism II Outstanding Student award by the Mississippi College Department of Communications.

With over 500 scholarships awarded to students such as Mark and Joy, one can see the impact the Dowdles' gift has had and will continue to have for Christ. In addition to their gift of money, the Dowdles have given willingly of their time and talents. Mr. Dowdle served faithfully as a trustee of the Miss. Baptist Foundation. Even though Mr. Dowdle died in November 1997, Mrs. Dowdle will continue to see their gift touch the lives of young people. Indeed, their gift will continue to impact others for Christ until He returns.



Pictured (l to r): Mark Sellers, recipient of the Dowdle Scholarship; Betty Jeane Dowdle, Columbus, donor; Joy Merriman, recipient of the Dowdle Scholarship; Jane Newell, associate director; and Pat Hutton, administrative assistant.

Estate Planning Tools for Giving

Outright gift

You can make a gift to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and designate it for any or all Baptist Causes, from your local church, to World Hunger fund at the International Mission Board. With your gift to the Baptist Foundation you will know your gift will be used as you directed until Christ comes again.

Outright gift of appreciated property

Appreciated property, such as stocks and mutual funds, make good giving vehicles. By making a gift of appreciated assets, your tax deduction is based on the fair market value of the asset and not your cost. Thus you do not incur the capital gains tax which would be due had you sold the asset and then made a gift.

Gift Through Will

Through your Will, you can specify an amount or a percentage of your estate to be given to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and used to provide financial resources to the Baptist cause or causes you desire.

Charitable Remainder Trust

The Charitable Remainder Trust allows you to make a gift today while you continue to receive the income from the gift for your lifetime with the remainder given to a Baptist cause at your death. The Charitable Remainder Trust is flexible allowing the income to be paid to you and your spouse or you, your spouse, and your children.

Charitable Lead Trust

The Charitable Lead Trust allows you to establish a trust with the income paid to the Baptist cause you specify with the remainder paid back to you or to members of your family after a period of years.

Charitable Gift Annuity

The Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a gift today and get the income back for your lifetime. At your death, the remainder is paid to the Baptist cause you specify.

Pooled Income Fund

This fund allows the income earned on the gift to be paid back to the donor with the remainder to a Baptist cause. This is a great giving vehicle for smaller gifts.

Life Insurance

You can make the Mississippi Baptist Foundation the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy that you do not need any more or you can purchase a new policy naming the Baptist Foundation as owner and beneficiary. This is a great way to make a gift to further the cause of Christ.

Remainder Interest in Real Property

You can make a gift of your house or farm while retaining the right to live in the house until your death. You have the assurance that your house or farm will be used at your death for the Baptist cause you directed.

These giving tools may sound complicated to you, but they are easy for us. The Foundation recognizes each individual's particular needs and goals, and we strive to provide our services in a personal and professional manner. We will be glad to visit with you, your family, and your financial advisors to discuss the pros and cons of each gift-type to find the one that best fits you.

How to reach us

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is located in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Building, 515 Mississippi Street, Suite 203, Jackson, Miss.

Mailing address:

P. O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

Phone: 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651; after hours & during holidays, 601-968-0901; Fax: 601-968-0904; E-mail: mbf@misnet.com

(ALL THINGS, cont. from p.2)

opening for a radio station in Philadelphia, my home town, and wanted me to stop by and see John Croitz, a consulting engineer in Washington. On my visit with Mr. Croitz, I completed an application and found myself owner of a Radio Station. After attending a college specializing in radio engineering with courses in programming and announcing, and borrowing a communications receiver to listen to the first test of Radio Station WHOC, my career began in June 1948. Wilbur supervised the purchase of the station, lent us money for the construction, and realized that this was work that I could do even if I was on crutches the rest of my life.

In June 1946, two cousins and I attended Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. We went along with a busload of BSU students from MSCW (now MUW) to help with the luggage. On the bus were some Baptist Student Union students whom I met, and one, Geraldine Williams, in particular caught my eye. I had to leave Ridgecrest early because of an injured foot. Since the Mississippi College BSU group was leaving early, they drove me to the VA Hospital in Atlanta. Other complications occurred,

and I was in the hospital longer than I had anticipated. During this time was when I started corresponding with Geraldine (Gerry) Williams. We were eventually married May 16, 1948.

Each time I had tried to complete my degree at Mississippi College, I had to drop out for follow-up surgery. Not only did God answer my prayers of deliverance, but He also answered the prayers of my parents to take care of my brother, Algernon, and me. My parents promised the Lord that if He would take care of their two sons, they would educate ministerial students at Mississippi College with a trust fund. The Cole Brothers Foundation was set up on November 13, 1944, by my dad, Wilbur Cole, Uncle Everett Cole, Aunt Gwyneth, and Uncle Marion Cole. Later, my brothers and I contributed to the fund.

Not only did God spare me, as I have mentioned, but He did also in other ways. From the time I enlisted in 1942, God had the company commander let me serve in the Service Records department instead of participating in the initial invasion of Anzio, where so many men were killed. Then I didn't have to go until I was a replacement

after the invasion of Normandy. This happened because of a delay caused by the loss of my service records.

Did you see the Hand of the Lord? No, but I saw the protection and working of the Lord. He protected me when the Germans captured most of my unit. One time a mortar hit and killed a man on my right but didn't hurt me. All I got was a crease in my helmet. God spared me from injuries or death from all the daily hazards of war, and from death and loss of my leg when I did get hit by the "Bouncing Betty" and the sniper's bullet. Machine-gun fire was so close one time that the shoulder strap was cut off my overcoat.

By the Lord arranging the ownership of Radio Stations WHOC AM and WWSL FM in Philadelphia, we were able to support his work by setting up a trust fund in 1989 through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. This fund, which is administered by First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, has been used by students who are pursuing full-time Christian service. This gives the pleasure of seeing this money witnessing for the Lord who makes all things possible.

Attitude of Cheerful Giving – Great Planning

The Rev. Carl E. Talbert of Pearl, Mississippi, died December 13, 1997. Born in Bailey in Lauderdale County in 1906, Talbert graduated from Meridian High School in 1925. Then after working at the post office for seven years, he entered Mississippi College in 1932, graduating summa cum laude in 1936. After completing his Th.M. at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1939, he served as pastor in Martinsburg, West Virginia; Buchanan, Virginia; Marion, Mississippi, and Bessemer, Alabama, before coming in 1957 to First Baptist Church, Pearl, Mississippi, where he was pastor until his retirement in 1973.

Although he was never an affluent man, Rev. Talbert was a cheerful giver and a great planner. As a pastor he never made as much as \$13,000 a year in salary. When he retired, he had a total of \$10,000 in savings. Nevertheless, the year after his retirement, he and Mrs. Talbert

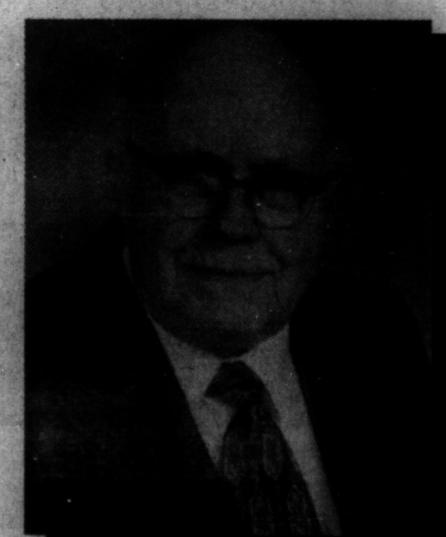
established a Trust Fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation which allotted the proceeds as follows: 40% to Mississippi College, 40% to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and 20% to Samford University. Thereafter, he and Mrs. Talbert made modest contributions to the Fund. On July 13, 1997, First Baptist Church Pearl staged a Carl E. Talbert Appreciation Day. As part of that day's events, First Baptist Pearl established a Carl E. Talbert Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College.

It was Rev. Talbert's privilege to be able to contribute to that fund before his death. It was his desire that at his death, his house would be given to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation with an amount from the sale equal to 10% of the value of his estate going to the Trust Fund and the remainder from the house's sale going to the scholarship fund at Mississippi College.

In his life Rev. Talbert gave generously to Kingdom causes. In his death he continues this

pattern by his careful planning and by his request that memorials be given to the scholarship fund at Mississippi College. As a result, future generations will continue to benefit from his life and his death. Carl Talbert provides a model for others to be faithful stewardship of possessions.

Mrs. Carl (Audrey H.) Talbert died in 1993. Their son, Dr. Charles H. Talbert, lives in Waco, Texas.



Carl E. Talbert



Matching Gift Results from Oliver Scholarship

A scholarship donor gave both money and love to a student. In 1980, Joseph and Kathryn Oliver established a Fund with the Miss. Baptist Foundation to provide seminary scholarships. Joseph Oliver, a retired pastor and director of missions, recalled his own financial hardship and struggles to be able to go to seminary, and had a desire to help other needy students.

In 1939, Joseph Oliver graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi, and married Kathryn Herron of Courtland in 1937. In 1941, Joseph and Kathryn Oliver arrived at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and had \$5.85 between the two of them. In order to pay the first month's rent, Joseph Oliver was able to borrow money from the business manager, and worked several different jobs to make enough money to go to school. It was largely because of the financial difficulties they had encountered that Joseph and Kathryn had the desire to set up a fund to aid students attending seminary.

Through the help of the Olivers, one scholarship recipient gained both a man and money. In 1986 Rana Nettles was awarded the Joseph and Kathryn Oliver Scholarship through the Miss. Baptist Foundation. In an effort to show appreciation to the

Burt. After corresponding by mail and by phone, they began a beautiful courtship.



Joseph and Kathryn Oliver

They became engaged and were eventually married at Cason Baptist Church, Nettleton, the Oliver's home church. Bobby and Rana Burt graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he is now pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Miss. They have a two year old son, John Anders, and a daughter, Katie, named for Mrs. Oliver. The Olivers indeed gave love and money.

Through the years, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has provided scholarship aid to our Mississippi students attending a Southern Baptist seminary. For the 1998 spring semester 150 students received financial assistance. Because of the increasing number of applicants, there is an ever-increasing need for funds to assist individuals who will go out to minister in Mississippi and around the world.

A scholarship fund can be established in honor of an individual or in memory of a loved one. Whether you add to an existing scholarship fund or establish a new fund, your Mississippi Baptist Foundation will be excited to help you accomplish your goal! What better blessing than to invest in the lives of others and to realize that your money will live on forever until the Lord returns.



Bobby and Rana Burt and children

Olivers, Rana arranged a visit to their home in Amory. Mrs. Oliver introduced Rana to their associate pastor, Bobby

Other Services of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Estate Stewardship Seminars

The Foundation promotes estate stewardship by offering three general seminars. Each seminar is designed to fit into the time allotted during discipleship training or perhaps a group luncheon. To schedule one or all of the free seminars for your church, please call the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

- **Will Seminar** – features a discussion of the Last Will and Testament and its importance, including a discussion of valid wills in Mississippi, the probate process, estate taxes, property ownership, and gifts to the Lord's work.
- **Investment Seminar** – features a discussion of investments to help individuals understand the concept of risk vs. return, the importance of asset allocation, and the various classes of assets that can be used to meet an individual's investment objective.
- **Financial Gifts Seminar** – features a discussion of the tax advantages and the methods for making charitable gifts, including outright gifts, appreciated property gifts, insurance gifts, and life income gifts such as the charitable remainder trust, gift annuity and the pooled income fund.

Investments

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation provides money management services for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies, as well as for its own accounts. The Foundation pools all its assets into common pooled funds that operate in much the same way as mutual funds, thereby affording quality investment management even for the smallest account. The Baptist Foundation uses professional money managers based on their specific style of investing and their above-average historical rates of return. By combining money managers with specific styles of investing, the Foundation gains diversification, reduced risk, and hopefully greater overall investment returns. The investment services are more fully described below.

MBF Equity Fund, a growth stock fund, is designed for capital appreciation with little emphasis on income. The Fund is invested in stock offerings of U.S. corporations as well as international corporations by four (4) outside professional money managers. The performance goal of the fund is to outperform the Standard and Poors 500 market index.

MBF Fixed Income Fund, a bond fund, is designed to provide income, with little attention paid to capital appreciation. The Fund is invested in U.S. government securities and corporate bonds by three (3) outside professional money managers. The performance goal of the fund is to outperform the Lehman Brothers Aggregate market index.

MBF Short Term Cash Fund, an enhanced money market fund, is designed to outperform the current yields from six and twelve month certificate of deposits, as well as the 91-day Treasury bill rate. The Short-Term Cash Fund matches a competitive rate of return with full liquidity. The Fund is managed by one outside professional money manager.

MBF General Endowment Fund is designed to meet the long term investment objectives of perpetual endowment accounts. The Endowment Fund seeks to provide income while guarding against the effects of inflation. The Endowment Fund is invested in a preset allocation between stocks and bonds, which is currently 30% in the MBF Equity Fund and 70% in the MBF Fixed Income Fund.

Pooled Income Fund, designed under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service, provides income to the individual investor for their lifetime and then to charity at their death. The Pooled Income Fund is available to anyone wishing to provide future financial resources for Baptist causes. The Pooled Income Fund is currently 100% invested in the MBF Fixed Income Fund.

In some cases the Mississippi Baptist Foundation also makes individual investments for accounts whose investment objective does not permit an investment in one of the Baptist Foundation's common funds.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation – providing services to Mississippi Baptists who are interested in providing financial resources to further the cause of Christ in Mississippi and around the world. Please call on us.

The purpose of this publication, prepared by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, is to provide helpful information of a general nature. It is not intended as a source of specific legal or tax advice.

SBC related meetings

African-American Fellowship: begin at 5 p.m., June 7 at Calvary Church in Salt Lake City. Contact Ethel Williams at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1422.

Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions: June 7-8 at Best Western Olympus in Salt Lake City. Includes tour of Mormon Tabernacle area.

Korean Council of North America/Korean Baptist English Meeting: June 8-11 at Airport Hilton in Salt Lake City.

Filipino Southern Baptist Fellowship of North America: June 8 at Salt Lake Baptist Association in Salt Lake City.

Chaplain's luncheon sponsored by NAMB ministry evangelism team: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., June 8 at Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City.

Baptist World Alliance: 7 a.m. breakfast, June 10 at Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. Cost of breakfast is \$12 per person. Contact Douglas Inglis at (703) 893-5160.

Southwestern Seminary alumni luncheon: noon, June 10 at Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. Tickets are \$10 each and may be ordered from Alumni Office, P.O. Box 22500, Ft. Worth, TX 76122.

Midwestern Seminary alumni luncheon: noon, June 10 in downtown Marriott. Tickets are \$15 advance and \$17 at convention exhibit booth. Contact alumni office at (816) 453-4600.

Southeastern Seminary Alumni luncheon: around 12:30 p.m., June 10 in Ballrooms A & C at Salt Palace Convention Center. Cost of luncheon is \$12 per person. Contact alumni office at (919) 556-3101, ext. 203, before May 29 deadline.

Golden Gate Seminary alumni and friends luncheon: following Wednesday morning convention session, rooms 257 E & F, Salt Palace Convention Center. Tickets: \$15 per person. Contact Office of Institutional Advancement at (415) 380-1496.

New Orleans Seminary alumni and friends reunion: full-course dinner at 12:30 p.m., June 10 at Marriott Hotel in Salt Lake City. Tickets: \$15 per person advance and \$20 per person after June 1 and at convention exhibit booth. Write to Alumni Office, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists: begins at 12:45 p.m., June 10, ballrooms C/D in Salt Palace Convention Center. Featuring Brad Jones Family of Meridian.

Southern Seminary alumni and friends luncheon: 1-3 p.m., June 10, ballrooms E/F/G/H in Salt Palace Convention Center. Tickets: \$17 advance and \$20 at door per person. Contact Office of Institutional Advancement at (800) 626-5525, ext. 4143, before June 5 deadline.

Hispanic Church Planter's Network: 5 p.m. on June 10 at Salt Lake Baptist Association in Salt Lake City.



HEAR THE NEW WORSHIP MUSICAL
God For Us!

May 7 - 9, 1998

Begins at noon on the 7th
& concludes at noon on the 9th

Eagle Ridge Conference Center
Raymond, Mississippi
(601) 857-7100

Personalities

Marc Clark	Mary McDonald
Marty Parks	Lew King
Benjamin Harlan	Billy Causey
Joseph Martin	Mike Wilkins
Paul Williams	Kirk Kirkland

In Concert



For information contact:
Music Mississippi at
(601) 924-2591

Reading Sessions

Praise Gathering	Lillenas
Gaither Music	Allegis
Integrity	Alfred
Word	Shawnee
Clydesdale	Monarch
Maranatha	Witness
	Genevox

and



PASTORS' CONFERENCE

1998 ANNUAL MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center — Salt Lake City, Utah

June 7-8, 1998

*Claude Thomas, president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas
Kim G. Noblitt, conference worship leader, minister of music, First Church, Euless, Texas*

Sunday, June 7, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Greeting
Anchor Point #1: The Doctrine of Revelation: **Mark Coppenger**, president, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Message: **Charles Lowery**, pastor, Hoffmantown Church, Albuquerque, N.M.
Anchor Point #2: The Doctrine of Salvation: **Chuck Kelley**, president, New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans.

Message: **Rick Ferguson**, pastor, Riverside Church, Denver

Sunday, June 7, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Anchor Point #3: The Doctrine of Jesus: **Ken Hemphill**, president, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

FAITH Evangelism Testimony: **James T. Draper Jr.**, president, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.;

Bob Reccord, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

Speaker: **Mike Huckabee**, governor, State of Arkansas, Little Rock, Ark.

Message: **James Merritt**, pastor, First Church, Snellville, Ga.

Message: **Jay Strack**, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.

Message: **Ed Young**, pastor, Second Church, Houston

Monday, June 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Anchor Point #4: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: **William O. Crews**, president, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Message: **Johnny Hunt**, pastor, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.

Message: **Ronnie Floyd**, pastor, First Church, Springdale, Ark.

Message: **Adrian Rogers**, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn.

Monday, June 8, 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Anchor Point #5: The Doctrine of God: **R. Albert Mohler Jr.**, president, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Message: **Jack Graham**, pastor, Prestonwood Church, Dallas

Message: **Mike Hamlet**, pastor, North Spartanburg First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.

Message: **Jerry Vines**, co-pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Monday, June 8, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Anchor Point #6: The Doctrine of Heaven: **Paige Patterson**, president, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Welcome To The Southern Baptist Convention: **Tom Eliff**, president, Southern Baptist Convention; pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

Message: **Ike Reighard**, pastor, North Star Church, Kennesaw, Ga

Testimony: **Calvin Hunt**, Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York

Message: **Jim Cymbala**, pastor, Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York

Pastors' Conference

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Monday, June 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.,

Hall 1, Level 1

Babbie Mason, Christian recording artist, Marietta, Ga.

Jeanette Clift George, founder and artistic director of A.D. Players, Houston; star of *The Hiding Place*

Deborah Tyler, president, Renaissance Ministries, Euless, Texas

Carol Ann Draper, national women's conference speaker, Brentwood, Tenn.

Ministers' Wives scheduled to meet June 9 during SBC

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Tickets for the June 9 luncheon for Southern Baptist ministers' wives in Salt Lake City are \$12 each. The luncheon, partially funded this year by a newly-created endowment fund, is traditionally held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Tickets requested after May 19 and at the Southern Baptist Convention registration area in Salt Lake City on Sunday and Monday will be \$14 each.

This year's speaker will be Esther Burroughs, popular women's author and assistant department director at the SBC North American Mission Board (formerly the SBC Home Mission Board) in Atlanta.

To request the \$12 luncheon tickets before May 19, send a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to the group's treasurer, Jane Sanders, at 1301 Colorado Drive, Benbrook, TX 76126. Make checks payable to the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference.

Child care opens for Salt Lake SBC

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Registration for on-site child care for preschool children at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City, June 9-11, is now being accepted. A registration form is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Holladay Baptist Church, 2780 E. 3900 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84124. Attn: Jan/Sherrie. Child care fees will be \$10 per session.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

*Jesus Christ
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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

Homecomings

New Black Jack, Philadelphia: May 24; 142nd Anniversary; 10:30 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, 1:30 afternoon singing; The Hedgepeth Family, Union, guest singers; Warren Hedgepeth, Union, guest speaker; Hugh Martin, pastor.

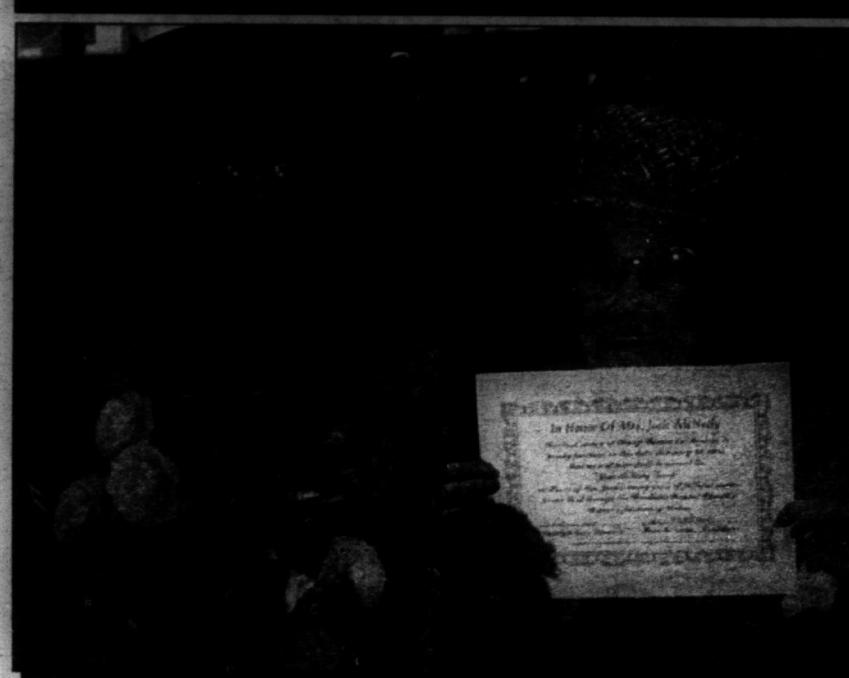
Salem (Kemper): May 3; 10:45 a.m.; morning worship; dinner on the grounds following services; The Reflections, music; Jerry Jones, pastor.

First, Fannin: May 3; 150 year anniversary; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service; Leroy Brewer, pastor.

HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH (GRENADA) is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resumes to 109 Highway 35, Holcomb, MS 38940.

MEADOW GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, is looking for a part-time Children's Minister. Please send resume to PO Box 794, Brandon, MS 39043. For further information call the church office: 601-825-5704.

YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTER: First Baptist Church of Fannin is searching to fill this full time position. A great opportunity near the reservoir. Send resumes to



Old Union Church, Tishomingo Association, ordained 3 deacons on Feb. 22. Pictured are (left to right) **Alvis Sanders, Phillip Cain, and Steve Cain**. Doyle Ferrell is pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Terry Road, Byram, has called Robert H. Perry as interim pastor. Perry is currently living in Pearl after retiring from full-time pastoring. His previous place of service was Macedonia Church, Brookhaven.

youth minister effective April 25. Murray is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC and currently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary.

Port Gibson, Union Association, has called Charles D. Terrell of McComb as pastor effective May 3. Terrell is a native of McComb and received his education from William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Olivet Church, Gulfport.

Woodville, Woodville, has called Rich Murray as summer

Baptistry sought for Ia. church

A Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood volunteer construction team is in need of a baptistry by June 1 to help complete a church the team is constructing in Glenwood, Iowa.

The team, led by Mackie Davis of Hattiesburg, will be installing the baptistry and the church steeple during their next trip to Glenwood on June 5-13.

The team will also conduct Vacation Bible Schools and participate in other evangelistic activities.

To provide information on an available baptistry, contact the MBCB Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

REVIVAL DATES

Temple, Petal: May 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Kendig, field consultant with Billy Graham Ministries, evangelist; Tim Nelson, Petal, music; Phil Harris, pastor.

Meadville, Meadville: May 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln Association, evangelist; Jamall Badry, Colorado Springs Co., music; Wiley Reid, interim pastor.

Linwood, Union: May 3-6; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, Ark., evangelist; Jerry Bishop, pastor.

Monticello, Monticello: May 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music; Jimmy McGee, pastor.



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SALT LAKE SBC CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS: Airfares: Jackson-SLC: Sunday - Thursday: \$315. Hotel packages, car rentals, BUS TOURS: Yellowstone/Jackson Hole or Grand Canyon: \$329. Salt Lake Sightseeing tours. CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS 1-800-972-8952.

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SBC ROOMS DOWNTOWN SALT LAKE. Quality Inn City Center 5 blocks from convention center. \$89 plus tax nightly. Contact Phil at MCTS. (601) 835-0467.

FOR SALE: 1976 B Blue Bird Church Bus, 42 passenger, Detroit Diesel Engine (runs good), AC, Luggage area below & back, inside above seat racks, power steering, air brakes. White with blue trim, re-painted & reupholstered 6 years ago. Upgrading must sell! \$3000.00. Call (601) 649-5712.

CHURCH RETREAT - open year around. Panama City Beach, Florida. Choice dates available this summer. Reasonable Rates, modern dorm facilities, 300 ft. from Gulf of Mexico. A ministry of First Baptist Church 1-850-234-0488 for details.

SUMMER VACATION HOUSE - available to Christian families, weekly rate savings. 3 BR on Panama City Beach, 1/2 block from Gulf. For details call First Baptist Church Panama City Beach, Florida 1-850-234-0488.

GRACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Slidell, Louisiana, is currently seeking to fill two staff positions: Minister of Music/Family Ministries

and Minister of Education/Administration. Please send resume along with any video or tape recording denoting past experiences with church events to: Grace Memorial Baptist Church, 5851 Pearl Acres Road, Slidell, LA 70461, Attn: Music Minister Search Committee or Minister of Education Search Committee.

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DON'T REMAIN NEUTRAL

Editor:

(On page nine of the March 26 issue) you reported that on a recent NBC "Today" show, the Reverend Graham offered Clinton virtual absolution for whatever occurred in the Lewinsky matter.

Another opinion was expressed by W. Frank Harrington, pastor of the Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, who on March 1, 1998, in a televised service, preached his entire sermon on morals.

He indicated that if the president is guilty, his actions should be condemned along with the public polls which support his behavior.

Harrington is not in the "fire and brimstone" category but is a well respected and intellectual pastor, who if anyone could, he can "cast the first stone".

He aggressively censured Clinton's reported moral behavior and suggested that if guilty of adultery and lying about it, the president should confess to the American people.

Neither did he excuse us, the people and urged us to take a moral stand, but don't we hear on every side that it doesn't make any difference what the president does as long as the economy (which he is taking credit for) is good and the country is prospering?

Are we contributing to the lowering of the whole moral climate of the nation with our tolerance of misconduct by our elected leaders?

The worst thing we can do is to remain neutral and stay silent.

J. Harry Batson
Atlanta, Ga.

THANKS FOR HOSPITALITY

Editor:

We wish to express our

thanksgiving to so many Mississippi Baptists for their prayers and concern for us during these last few weeks.

My wife, Martha, and I serve as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) missionaries to the Albanians.

We live in Skopje, Macedonia, and are striving to reach Albanians with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ there.

During these last few weeks we have been in Jackson for the birth of our third child. He was born on April 3, and Mom and son are doing very well.

We wish to say "thank you" to Mississippi CBF, to Bradley Pope, moderator; to Chuck Poole and the congregation at Northminster Church in Jackson; to Dorothy Thomsen and the congregation at First

Church in Hattiesburg; to Ken Anderson and the congregation at Parkway Church, Clinton; and to Women on Missions director Robbie Triggs and the congregation at Highland Colony Church in Madison.

It has been such a joy to share with each of these groups what the Lord Jesus is doing in the Balkans among the Albanian people.

We have been cared for so well by each of these groups and individuals and the Lord has blessed us richly through them.

Again, thanks so much for your concern and prayers. Please, continue to pray for our ministry in the Balkans.

Richard W. Shaw
Skopje, Macedonia

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Blue Mountain College will hold commencement exercises for its 125th annual session on Sun., May 3. Robert Bryant Barnes, Jr., pastor of Calvary

Church, Tupelo, will deliver the sermon at the 11 a.m. baccalaureate service. The commencement address, to be given by Mississippi congressman Roger F. Wicker, is scheduled for 3 p.m. Both services will be held in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium.

William Carey College students who will have works entered into the Southern Literary Festival in Natchez next year are Dee Dee Baldwin, Quitman; Shelly Bugg, Gretna, La.; Fordrena Griffin, Gulfport; and Candice M. Wheat, Poplarville.

Mississippi College first summer term registration is scheduled for Tues., May 26, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for day class students, and 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. for individuals taking night classes. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 601-925-3240 or 1-800-738-1236.

The Mississippi Beta chapter of Alpha Chi at William Carey College was named Star Chapter at the 1998 Region III Alpha Chi Conference in Montgomery, Ala. recently. Students participating in the conference were Kristen Lewis, Quitman, president and voting delegate of the Mississippi Beta

chapter; Drew Evans, Mandeville, La.; and Peyton Lampkin, Gulfport.

Leo Day, instructor of music at William Carey College, will present a faculty voice recital, accompanied by pianist Howard Keever, professor of music, Fri., May 8 at 7 p.m.

in the Smith Auditorium of the Thomas Fine Arts Center on the Hattiesburg campus. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$3 for students. Proceeds will be donated to the I.E. Rouse Library Fundraiser. For reservations and information call (601) 582-6175.

Mississippi College has set Aug. 3-4 as the dates for The Ninth Annual Ministers Golf Tournament. The tournament is open to all ordained ministers, including pastors, church staff, directors of missions, and Baptist Student Union directors. The event is co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3263.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

The Tri-State Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers will present a Ministry Arts Workshop to be held at West McComb



The GAs of Osyka Church, Osyka, recently served as hostesses for a special celebration honoring Marguerite Butts on her 90th birthday. Butts served as Woman's Missionary Union director for many years and has been a faithful Christian leader and church member. Pictured are (left to right, front row) Hailey Ott, Kaitlin Wilbanks, Shelbie Travis, (back row) Kayla Cutrer, Butts, Jessie Travis, Hanna Ott, and Katie Cutrer. Kim Wall and Suzanne Cutrer are GA leaders. Pete Wilbanks is pastor.

Church, McComb, May 2, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call Cindy Newman at (601) 567-2082 or West McComb Church at (601) 684-5442.

"Renew Your Worship!" a one day leadership training workshop will be held at Crossgates Church, Jackson on May 2, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Robert Webber, author of many books on worship, and director of the Institute for Worship Studies (IWS) will lead the workshop. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. The cost for the primary person of each church is \$79; \$59 for secondary persons from each church; and \$49 for the sixth person and beyond. To pre-register, call IWS at 630-510-8905, or fax 630-510-6091.

Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, will dedicate a new 47,000 square foot multi-purpose facility May 3 at 2:30 p.m. The church relocated from the east side of Brookhaven to a 29 acre campus on Hwy. 84. The \$3.3 million project was built debt free.

First Church, Long Beach, will dedicate a new Rodger's 960 Organ on Sun., May 3 in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A Dedicatory Concert will be presented Sunday evening at 6 p.m. by Becky Lombard, professor of church music, New Orleans Seminary.

Baptist Health Systems will sponsor a free Osteoporosis Update on May 13 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Healthcaring Center for Women, 1405 N. State Street, Jackson. The session will be led by Deaver Collins, a Jackson rheumatologist. Collins will discuss new developments in diagnosing and treating osteoporosis and will be on hand to answer questions. Registration is required by noon, May 12. To register or for more information, call 1-800-948-6262.

Midway Baptist Church, Vardaman, will celebrate Memorial Day and its 150th anniversary Sat., May 2 and Sun., May 3. Saturday services will begin at 12:30 p.m. and include gospel singing, living

histories, skits, a memorial flag presentation, and a barbecue supper. Services on Sun. will be from 9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. and will feature a memorial service, special music, preaching, and a presentation by Charles Martin. Sunday services will be followed by dinner on the grounds and a music program led by Nick Davis. D. W. Smith is pastor.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will hold its Annual Spring Prayer Conference on May 1-3. The conference times are Fri., 6:50 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.; Sun., 5 p.m. and worship at 6 p.m. Topics will include Levels of Prayer, Organizing Prayer, Scripture-Praying, Travailing for the Lost, and How to Pray for Your Pastor. Rob Finley, president and founder of Prayer Resources of Memphis, Tenn., will conduct the "Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" conference. There is no charge for the conference and child care will be provided, but reservations are required. For more information or to request child care, call 924-5620.

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LIFE AND WORK

Principles for Christian conduct

Rom.14:22-23; 1 Cor. 8:9-13, 10:23, 31, 32, 11:1; 2

By Jim Burnett

Today many Christians are confused about what is right and wrong. Maneuvering through the gray areas of life with confidence is becoming more and more difficult. Issues such as invitro fertilization, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), marijuana use, organ donation, and the cloning of animals and humans, to name a few, leave many believers with lots of questions and few answers.

How can we discern what is right and wrong when the Bible fails to address these issues specifically? Are we left as spiritual orphans to fend for ourselves, to write our own rules, determine without God's assistance appropriate reactions to the issues of today?

Christians today are not traveling this earth alone. We have a heavenly Father who daily guides us through the situations, circumstances, and difficult matters.

Neither do we live in moral isolation. The eyes of the world are upon us. Therefore, it is important that we conduct ourselves in a manner that honors God and positively impacts the lost. Although the Bible may not specifically mention the issues of today by word, it does contain principles that govern these issues. By closely and carefully examining the collective Word of God, believers can determine Christian moral conduct in every situation.

Proceed cautiously in Christian freedom (1 Cor. 10:23).



Burnett

"It's under the blood." Have you ever heard someone use this statement? Often it's employed as an alibi or justification of sin in one's life.

Paul, however, did not believe Jesus' shed blood gave him permission to live a life contrary to that of his Lord's. As God's children, we must use our Christian liberties wisely, choosing to do that which encourages and challenges others to live close to Christ.

Here are some questions to ask yourself before engaging in an activity: Can I commune with God as freely after indulging in it? Can I look to the Lord in the midst of it? How will this activity appear at the judgement seat of Christ? And will this deed help or harm others?

Bring glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31). Is it really possible to honor God in every activity of life? Deducting from this passage of scripture, it's not only possible, but expected. Isn't

that a wonderful thought: we can put a smile on God's face in whatever we do. So get busy bringing glory to God. Stay salty and shine bright, for you are the salt of the earth and light of the world.

Don't violate your conscience (Rom. 14:22-23). Shortly after Christmas one year, I was standing in a long line at the return desk at a local department store when a lady abruptly broke in line.

You could see the hair rising on the necks of those immediately behind her when she turned and said, "Oh, is this the front of the line? It bothers my conscience that I broke." The man directly behind her said, "Let your conscience be your guide." Interestingly, she remained in her place.

Apparently she turned a deaf ear to what her inner spirit was telling her to do. Are you in tune with God, and do you listen to the divine conscience he has given you upon regeneration? Turning a deaf ear leads

to spiritual suicide.

Don't cause other believers to stumble (1 Cor. 8:9-13). To impede or hinder the growth of another believer is the equivalent of slapping Christ. Therefore, Christians must choose their words and works carefully, for there is always a young spiritual brother or sister watching.

Don't give unbelievers a reason to mock (1 Cor. 10:32-11:1). Our privilege as Christians is to attract the lost to Christ instead of repel them. Is your life drawing the unsaved to Christ? Or, are you an excuse that believers use to say "If that's Christianity, no thanks?"

Don't let unbelievers set the moral standard (2 Cor. 6:14-15). Compromising the gospel and Christ's standards is repulsive to God and bad business. Why trade the perfect for the imperfect? That's not a good trade any way you look at it. And remember, God's standard is to be obeyed not altered or adjusted.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Salvation and fellowship

Galatians 2:11-21

By Harold W. Simmons

There have been a number of squabbles as to the date and place of writing as well as the destination of the letter of Galatians. But its truth comes screaming across the ages to us and we do well to heed the revealed truth that fellowship and salvation are bound together and are based solely on faith in Christ Jesus.

Salvation and fellowship are inseparable (2:11-14). Paul brought inconsistency to the fore in Peter's life as he confronted Peter to his face. I don't think Paul did an "in his face" type confrontation, but rather the event was open and before



Simmons

the other Jewish Christians.

Paul saw a fellowship in all areas of life between Jewish Christian and Gentile Christian until other Jewish Christians from Jerusalem came to Antioch. Then, there began to be a separation and division in fellowship. Salvation had brought both groups into one family, the family of God. Both groups were amalgamated into the "new Israel."

Paul evidently felt the separation was sending the wrong message and the Jewish Christians were living the wrong theology. The gospel that had been presented was salvation by

faith and faith alone for Jew and Gentile.

Faith in Christ and faith alone (2:15-18). A division began in the Antioch church that presented an "us-them" division. This small division in one congregation became a source of hurt and turmoil that needed to be reconciled.

Paul began the process of reconciliation by pointing to the truth. And that truth is that it is by faith and faith alone that any person gains salvation. The issue of eating with the Gentiles or eating what the Gentile believers ate was not a matter concerning salvation, but rather it was a matter of culture.

Peter had received a direct revelation from God about diet. God had said to Peter that he had made the unclean food to be clean food. Salvation had made the Gentile a brother to

the believing Jew. Therefore, regardless of national origin, believers can fellowship together. It is forgiveness that makes all people "clean."

Faith in Christ results in a new life (2:19-20). Paul, in another place, had described all mankind as being dead in sin. The unregenerate person is as good as dead because there is no hope in eternity.

A doctor once sat across from me and said that I had a very rare blood disorder. He told me there is no known cure and the disease will eventually take your life.

At that point I considered myself as good as dead. But, the doctor continued, there is a hope because this disease sometimes goes into remission for as long as ten years when chemical therapy is administered.

Remission is only a hope, not a reality. We who were dead in our sins have a reality for living because we have been offered

new life by Christ Jesus who can live in us. The reality of eternal life is available only through faith in the blood of Jesus.

Sin made the cross necessary (2:21). The strength of the law was that it pointed out to mankind what the rules were for living as God desired. The other side was that it could do nothing about forgiving sin.

Paul preached that it was absolutely necessary for the cross event to take place in order for mankind to have forgiveness.

God speaks to us. I believe that God speaks to us from Galatians to say that we should be careful in our living to make sure that our living is directed by the Word of God and not by national culture. The manner in which we relate to other people must be guided by the scripture rather than community mores or practice.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

What is the future of Christianity?

Mark 4:3-9, 26-34

By Grace Graham

Stories that teach (4:1-2). Today many adults search for spiritual truth. Jesus told stories that provide a vision of life. These parables teach the truths of God's kingdom. "Parable" means putting alongside to compare and gain new understanding. Jesus' parables allow us the opportunity to better understand the truth so that we may seek to advance his work.

Jesus often taught by the sea. Many times the crowds were so large that he taught from a boat. Within this crowd were different types of hearers.

His mastery of the parable as a teaching method kept the attention of all and tested the spiritual responsiveness of his hearers.

The means of growth (4:3-9). Jesus knew that adults sometimes hear what they want to hear. The command to listen is very important to Mark's message here. The verb means not only to hear but to act on what is heard.

The story of the sower would not have been strange to the farmer in Galilee. He sowed before he plowed. He sowed on the path and where thorns had been but he planned to work



Graham

the ground afterward. The rocky ground was limestone covered with only a thin layer of soil.

Where villagers had walked a hardened path across the field, the seeds were most exposed. Much of the seed was eaten by birds. Some seed blossomed from the warm sun but was not able to root in the rock. What seemed so promising quickly dried up!

Other seed fell among the thorns. It seems that this thorn patch had been cut and burned. But as the seed grew, the thorns grew back also. These choked all hope of harvest.

The result of the sowing has nothing to do with the seed but everything to do with the soil on which it lands. So the understanding of the parable depends not on the parable, but on the character of those who hear Jesus speak. In spite of the

hungry birds, the thorns, and the weather, with all of the related frustrations God will have his harvest in his time.

The mystery of growth (4:26-29). How does God's kingdom grow? How does sown seed come to grow and ready itself for harvest? Both seem a great mystery.

What is the "Kingdom of God"? Is it a geographical place? Is it a building? No, it is God's ruling. This rule is independent of all geographical areas or political objects. The kingdom cannot be built by men. It is a work of God. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, believers have the keys to the kingdom!

To speak of salvation is to speak of the kingdom. God is graciously giving salvation as a free gift. He extends his kingdom to anyone who will receive the gift and enter. Through his son Jesus Christ

the kingdom begins now and will be completed in the future.

The magnitude of growth (4:30-32). Jesus explained to the disciples that the kingdom of God may seem insignificant, but it will grow to incredible proportions. This parable tells of the kingdom being as a tiny mustard seed that grows to a twelve foot tall shrub!

Do you hear? (4:33-34). Jesus used parables to speak the Word, or the gospel, to all people. Jesus sought for people to think and to learn, hear, and understand spiritual truth. It is important that we continue to seek spiritual truth. We can do this through fellowship and support offered through God's people.

The future of Christianity is bright! This week, decide upon a way that you can seek to advance the work of God's kingdom through your church.

Graham is Childhood Education Director at First Church, Gulfport.

Revival in Mormon country recounted

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Vernal was like many small towns in Utah in the early 1980s. About 85% of the population — roughly 10,000 people — claimed membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), while First Baptist Church had a Sunday morning attendance of only about 70.

Beginning in 1984, something happened in that town of about 12,000, unlike anything Southern Baptists in the region have seen before or since.

A new pastor with a fresh vision for the community came to town. A prominent couple left the LDS church and began telling others about Christ (see page one). It became routine and expected in the church to build on friendships with Mormon neighbors and share Christ.

By the end of five years, 450 Mormons had paid the enormous price of leaving the LDS church and acknowledging the Christ of Scripture through

the ministry of First Church. Other Christian churches in the community also shared in the harvest.

"To be honest, I don't think we were aware of the enormity of what was going on," said Herb Stoneman, pastor of First Church at the time and now evangelism director for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

"God was just moving, and we were simply letting him move through us. There was deep commitment on the part of everyone in the body to that altering of life that was going on.

"It was a situation where every Sunday someone new was coming to know Christ. ... I think some Sundays I could have said, 'Olly Olly Oxen Free,' and people would have come down the aisles. The word of ministry was going out in the homes, and we were simply the gathering ground in the church," he said.

About two years into the revival, the Vernal church organized a bold campaign to distribute to every home a paperback book presenting the case for the historic Christian gospel.

The title, "God's Word: Final, Infallible and Forever," actually addressed only the first section of the book, which sought to counter Mormon claims that the Bible is flawed. Other sections were titled, "The Mormon Illusion" and "From Mormon Illusion to God's Love."

"We prayed about whether it was too confrontive, but we already had a reputation in the community. ... After you've been labeled as the Whore of Babylon, how much worse can you get?" Stoneman said.

Within 24 hours after the 6,000 books were distributed, LDS leaders had issued a directive that the books were to be burned. But many were read, and people responded. Stoneman said some Mormon residents even came by asking for extra copies.

What did Stoneman learn from the experience? It wasn't a sure-fire evangelistic method for Mormons, as many have sought from him. But it is a principle of evangelism that applies to Mormons or anyone else that needs the gospel.

"The first characteristic is one of being totally in love with the lost. You have to love lost people enough to expose yourself as far as your own weaknesses.

"There's no such thing as being effective in evangelism and at the same time being a silent witness," he added. "You must say what you believe and you must make certain people know there's a difference ... People come to Christ when people come to them and tell them of their need for Christ."

He uses Jesus Christ's approach with the woman at the well as a model; Jesus first established a point of contact, then he took the opportunity to share the good news.

"I had an opportunity to win a lot of men to Christ while at the gymnasium playing basketball," he said.

While casual confrontation is essential, he said, it should be done in a spirit of love.

"I find a lot of people try to encounter cultists with angry words, and I haven't seen many of them being successful in leading people to Christ," Stoneman pointed out.



Mormon Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mormonism as culture is proper view, author says

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Mormonism is not only a cult but also a culture, the author of a new book on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) said.

While Mormonism includes frequent references to God, Jesus, and the Bible, these terms are used very differently from what evangelical Christians believe, according to Phil Roberts, director of the interfaith witness division of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Mormonism teaches that God was once a mortal man," Roberts said. "When Mormons talk about God they never talk about 'the' heavenly father. They talk about a heavenly father because they believe there are many gods out there."

"Mormonism teaches the notion of (Jesus) being a pro-created being. Mormonism loves to talk about our big brother Jesus. They don't mean that in a spiritual sense but in a literal sense."

"Mormonism has worked itself into the position of being more aligned with a fertility cult than with Christianity in believing God cohabited with a woman," Roberts said.

In another area, he said the Mormon Bible includes the King James Version "with notes and corrections made by Joseph Smith" (founder of Mormonism) and three other books, all in one volume. "They consider all of this to be God's revelation," he said.

"The difference between Mormons and evangelical Christians is that Mormons are breeding a culture where the exceptions are those who stay home," Roberts said. "We've bred a culture where the exceptions are those who go (to the mission field). We've got to turn that around."

He said every year each Mormon missionary produces an average of six Mormons proselytized from other religions. With a 5-10 percent annual growth rate, their goal is to have 280 million members worldwide by 2080.

For the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11, in Salt Lake City and for meeting Mormon missionaries knocking on doors of Southern Baptists, Roberts urged a spirit of love, not hostility.

"We must lovingly stand our ground and graciously present an alternative — faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," he said.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

If we lived in a society that condemned heterosexuals, maybe straight people would understand how it feels to be homosexual.

The Bible clearly states that homosexuality is wrong (Rom. 1:18-31, 1 Cor. 6:9-11). God's plan for humanity is that one man and one woman be united in marriage for life.

All of us struggle with sin, be it homosexuality, adultery, lying, anger, gossip, or a long list of other sins. That's why Jesus had to die, and why the Apostle Paul admonishes followers of the risen Christ to "...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles..." (Heb. 12:1 NIV).

You are correct, however, that most people do not understand what it's like to have homosexual feelings in our society. As Christians, we must share the love of the Savior with everyone who is lost, including homosexuals.

Those who come to know Jesus through us, regardless of their sins, are "...washed ...sanctified ...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God." (1 Cor. 6:11 NIV).

Wishing for a homosexual society is futile; turning to Christ will bear fruit in your life. It is possible to change your sexual orientation. You just haven't been told that by our politically-correct culture.

Pray about your situation

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

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YFX AB RCLAON ZV AF
PEM, NCV ZEXP AO XYYX
ZVRMOMV EB OAF; ZMN
NCV OJALAN AO TABV
ZVRMOMV EB LAICNVE-
MOFOO.

LEGYFO VAICN: NVF

Clue: R = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Five Two.